

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SCA-01 /064 W

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R 150845Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6069

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USIAC

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: KENYAN REACTION TO BBC ON LORD CHALFONT STORY

1. BROADCAST LAST WEEK BY BBC OF A DOCUMENTARY ON PRESIDENT KENYATTA WRITTEN BY LORD CHALFONT DREW SHARP REACTION IN KENYAN PARLIAMENT MARCH 14. VICE PRESIDENT MOI TERMED THE BROADCAST AN ATTACK ON KENYA, SAYING "SUCH AN ATTACK IS NOT JUST A PERSONAL ATTACK ON HIM (KENYATTA). IT IS AN ATTACK ON US AND THE ENTIRE NATION. KENYA WILL NOT TOLERATE SUCH UNCALLED-FOR ATTACKS ON THE HEAD OF STATE."

2. MOI'S REMARKS DREW APPLAUSE AND CRIES FROM MPS TO THROW OUT FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING HIPPIES, WHO DO NOT HAVE KENYA'S INTERESTS AT HEART.

3. ONE MP URGED THE GOK CLOSE THE BBC MONITORING STATION AT KAREN IN RETALIATION. BBC HAS NO OTHER REPRESENTATION HERE.

4. MOI'S SPEECH AND NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS EARLIER SAID BBC PROGRAM, WHICH BASED ON LORD CHALFONT ARTICLE
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APPEARING IN THE LISTENER MAGAZINE OF MARCH 7, CALLED KENYATTA

A DICTATOR. ARTICLE DOES NOT GO QUITE THAT FAR. ASKS QUESTION "IS KENYATTA REALLY A DICTATOR, OR IS HE JUST A MAN WHO THROUGH SHEER FORCE OF PERSONALITY HAS BROUGHT HIMSELF TO A POSITION IN WHICH HE IS REGARDED AS THE FATHER OF HIS PEOPLE?"

5. ARTICLE REVIEWS KENYATTA'S LIFE IN DETAIL AND ASKS IN FUTURE OF KENYA BEST SERVED BY "THE PERSONALITY CULT WHICH HE TOLERATES AND EVEN APPEARS TO ENCOURAGE." CHALFONT, WHO VISITED KENYA LAST AUTUMN WITH FILM CREW WITH PERMISSION OF GOK, WAS UNABLE SEE KENYATTA DESPITE PERSISTENT EFFORTS.

6. UNDERSTOOD HERE KENYAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LONDON HAS PROTESTED TO CHARLES CURRAN, DIRECTOR BBC, DEMANDING APOLOGY.

7. INCIDENT UNDERSCORES KENYAN SENSITIVITIES ESPECIALLY WHEN KENYATTA CONCERNED AND LIKELY WILL RESULT IN CLOSER SCREENING OF FOREIGN FILM UNITS BEFORE PERMITS GRANTED. ALSO COULD BRING ABOUT PRESSURES TO EXCLUDE HIPPIE-TYPE FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING AMERICANS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, RADIO COMMENTS, RADIO STATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, JOURNALISTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NAIROB02184
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740340/aaaabljc.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KENYAN REACTION TO BBC ON LORD CHALFONT STORY
TAGS: PFOR, ETEL, PGOV, KE, UK, BBC, (KENYATTA, JOMO), (MOI, DANIEL TEROITCH ARAP), (CHALFONT, LORD)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005